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Proceedings of the Botanical Club, A. A. A. S.--Detroit Meeting,
August, 1897.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10TH.

In the absence of all officers elected at the last meeting, the Club organized by the election of Dr. J. J. Davis, President, and Mr. A. F. Woods, Secretary.

Professor C. E. Bessey described an extensive epidemic of *Erysiphe communis* on *Polygonum aviculare* about Lincoln, Neb. In the ensuing discussion the same occurrence was reported from Michigan and Wisconsin.

Professor Bessey also described a phosphorescent mosquito (*Chironomus* sp.).

Professor Beal exhibited a number of photographs of the Botanical Garden of the Michigan Agricultural College; also charts of fungi and mounted sheets of weeds for lecture-room purposes.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11TH.

Mr. Rodney H. True presented "Notes on the Genus *Dicranum*."

Dicranum spurium in America consists of two forms, the genuine species and a form differing in many important characteristics from any described; the latter has probably a wide distribution in eastern America. *Dicranum rhabdocarpum* in abundant fruit has been found on Pikes Peak by Professor J. M. Holzinger. Its affinities ally it closely with *D. Bonjeani* DeNot. and not, as stated in the L. & J. Manual, with *D. Mühlenbeckii*. Mr. A. J. Grout has collected, probably for the first time in America, *Dicranum longifolium* var. *subalpinum* on Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

Dr. C. E. Bessey spoke on sensitive stamens in *Opuntia fragilis*; in bright sunlight they were very noticeable, quite as much so as in *Portulaca*, and were subsequently observed in another species. Dr. Britton remarked on similar sensitiveness in the stamens of the eastern *Opuntia Opuntia*.

Professor C. F. Wheeler remarked on two interesting species of oaks, discovered by Mr. S. L. Alexander in the vicinity of Birmingham, Mich., deferring critical détermination of the species.

Remarks were made by Professor Britton, Mr. Alexander and Mr. Moseley.

Mr. Albert F. Woods presented a note on a method of preserving the green color of plant tissues especially to show contrasts between green tissues and those of other colors. The method is briefly to soak the material in a dilute glycerine solution containing a little copper sulphate for several days or weeks, then, after washing out the extra copper, mount the material in glycerine gelatine hardened with formalin.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12TH.

The President appointed a committee to nominate officers for the ensuing meeting, and on the report of the committee the following were unanimously elected: President, Professor Conway MacMillan; Vice-President, Professor C. B. Waldron; Secretary, Mr. A. B. Seymour.

Professor A. D. Selby noted winter injury of plum and peach trees in Ohio during the past winter. Plum trees that had been defoliated in summer by *Cylindrosporium Padi* were severely damaged by freezing; more than 75 per cent. of three-year-old trees of certain varieties were killed to the snow line; eight-year-old trees had the bark separated from the trunk, chiefly on the south and west sides.

Professor Selby also remarked that leaves of *Ailanthus* dropped prematurely in June during and following the severe hot weather. Angular areas became discolored and subsequently dropped out. No parasite was found. It appeared referable to secondary effects of insect puncture.

Professor V. M. Spaulding spoke of the formation of a botanical garden at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, on the campus, where some 300 herbaceous species are now in cultivation.

Dr. Rodney H. True discussed the causes of the nodding of moss capsules.

Preliminary experiments directed toward determining the causes and directive influences controlling the nodding of capsules showed that in *Minum cuspidatum* the weight of the capsule has no noticeable influence. The curvature seems to be a response to

gravitation, and the direction of the plane in which the capsule falls is determined by the direction of strongest illumination, the capsule falling toward such source of illumination.

The Club then adjourned to meet next year with the Association as usual.

Botanical Notes.

The Plant World, an illustrated monthly Journal of Popular Botany. The first number of this new serial will be issued October 1, 1897. It will be a 16-page octavo, and will occupy an intermediate position between the technical botanical journals and the smaller amateur publications. It will present the facts of plant life in simple, popular language, and aim to interest those who desire acquaintance with plants and their life history, but who have no inclination for a systematic course of study. The editorial staff is as follows: Editor-in-chief, F. H. Knowlton, Ph.D., U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.; associates, Mr. Charles Louis Pollard, Miss Clara E. Cummings, Mr. Walter Hough, Mrs. N. L. Britton, Miss Josephine E. Tilden, Mr. A. W. Evans. The subscription price is \$1.00 a year. The publishers are Willard N. Clute & Co., Binghampton, N. Y.

Index to recent Literature relating to American Botany.

- Britten, J. and Baker, E. G.** Houston's Central American Leguminosae. *Journ. of Bot.* 35: 225-234. Je. 1897.
- Brannon, M. A.** The Structure and Development of *Grinnellia Americana* Harv. *Ann. Bot.* 11: 1-28. *pl.* 1-4. Mr. 1897.
- Burrage, J. H.** The adhesive Discs of *Ercilla volubilis* A. Juss. *Journ Linn. Soc.* 33: 95-102. *pl.* 5. 1 Jl. 1897.
- Call, R. E.** Some Notes on the Flora and Fauna of Mammoth Cave, Ky. *Am. Nat.* 31: 377-392. My. 1897.
- Clarke, C. B.** Distribution of three Sedges. *Journ. of Bot.* 35: 71-73. Mr. 1897.
- Clements, F. E.** The Polyphyletic Disposition of Lichens. *Am. Nat.* 31: 277-284. Ap. 1897.